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Letter dated 6 March 2018 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 27 February 2018 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, which includes the communiqué of the 748th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 24 January 2018, regarding the situation in Lesotho (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Guterres**

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Annex

Letter dated 27 February 2018 from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you with regard to the situation in Lesotho. As you may be aware, at its 748th meeting, held on 24 January 2018, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union received a comprehensive briefing from the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) on the evolution of the situation in Lesotho and the efforts being made by SADC to assist in the search for a lasting solution to the current challenges facing that country, including the deployment of the SADC preventive mission in Lesotho.

In the meantime, SADC has requested the African Union to provide technical and financial support for the preventive mission, in order for the mission to more effectively discharge its current mandate. The Peace and Security Council welcomed the request and the Commission dispatched a technical assessment team to Lesotho, from 4 to 9 February 2018, with a view to making proposals, in consultation with the secretariat of the Southern African Development Community, on the support required. The Peace and Security Council will soon consider the report of the technical assessment mission and take appropriate decisions.

I am forwarding herewith the Peace and Security Council communiqué of 24 January 2018 (see enclosure) and I would be most grateful if the present letter and its enclosure could be transmitted to the Security Council for its information and action as may be appropriate

(*Signed*) Moussa **Faki Mahamat**

Enclosure

[Original: English and French]

Communiqué of the 748th meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held on 24 January 2018

The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 748th meeting held on 24 January 2018, adopted the following decision on the deployment of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) contingent mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the briefing made by the Secretariat of (SADC on the deployment to the Kingdom of Lesotho, as mandated by the Double Troika Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government on 15 September 2017. Council **also takes note** of the statements made by the delegations of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa in its capacity as the Chair of SADC;

2. **Welcomes** the Communiqué of the Double Troika Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government of 15 September 2017, which approved the deployment of the SADC Preventive Mission in the Kingdom of Lesotho (SAPMIL). Furthermore, Council **welcomes** the deployment of SAPMIL, a multidimensional force comprising of a total of 258 personnel, as follows 207 Military, 24 Police, 15 Intelligence and 12 Civilian Experts for an initial period of six months, with effect from 20 November 2017, within the framework of the African Standby Force (ASF). Council **Acknowledges** that the objective of the deployment is to stabilize the political and security situation in the Kingdom of Lesotho; implement the recommendations of the SADC Commission of Inquiry; and to create a secure, stable and peaceful environment conducive for the rule of law necessary for the implementation of constitutional, parliamentary, judicial, public and security sector reforms;

3. **Underscores** that SAPMIL has been established in line with the United Nations (UN) Charter, Chapter VI, the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the AU and the relevant provisions contained in the SADC Treaty, Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, including the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishing the SADC Standby Brigade of 2007;

4. **Welcomes** the SADC request for support from the AU for the provision of technical and financial support for SAPMIL, in particular for the provision of support for the initial six months for a budget of USD 1,613,928.00 that the region urgently needs to mobilise in order to cater for the shortfall and allow the Mission to carry out its mandate within the initial six months. In this regard, Council **appeals** to all AU Member States, the UN and partners to extend their support, particularly technical and financial support to SAPMIL. Council **requests** the Chairperson of the Commission, in consultation with the SADC Secretariat, to make proposals on technical and financial support to the SAPMIL operation and update the PSC on the matter;

5. **Commends** the commitment by the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho to finding a lasting solution to its security situation and **encourages** them to implement the various reforms outlined above in paragraph 2. Furthermore, Council **expresses its appreciation** to SADC and to the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho for appraising it on the prevailing political and security situation in Lesotho;

6. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to transmit the communiqué to the UN Secretary-General and to request that it be circulated as an official UN Security Council document, as well as to other relevant international stakeholders;

7. **Decides** to remain actively seized of the matter.